

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 4, wherein said foreign matter is softer than said pulley, and wherein said warning sound becomes louder as said contact face becomes more worn.

4. (Previously presented) A transmission belt comprising:

a contact face contacting with a pulley when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley, and

a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face;

such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face so as to warn of a decrease in the transmission power of said transmission belt on said pulley,

wherein said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a warning sound to warn of a decrease in the transmission power.

5. (Previously Presented) A transmission belt according to claim 4, wherein said piece of foreign matter has a cross section of variable width such that the width of said foreign matter is narrower for portions of said foreign matter closer to said contact face and wider for portions of said foreign matter farther from said contact surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt comprising:

a contact face contacting with a pulley when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley, and

a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face;

wherein a plurality of pieces of said foreign matter are embedded in said transmission belt, each said piece having a longitudinal direction and a top, and said longitudinal direction substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face and with said top closest to said contact face; and

a distance in the perpendicular direction between said contact face and the top of at least one piece of said foreign matter being different from a distance in the perpendicular direction between said contact face and the top of another piece of said foreign matter

such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face so as to warn of a decrease in the transmission power of said transmission belt on said pulley,

wherein said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a warning sound that becomes louder as said contact face becomes more worn to warn of a decrease in the transmission power.

7. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 4, wherein said piece of foreign matter is given a color, which is different from a color of other parts of said transmission belt.

8. (Currently Amended) A transmission belt according to claim 4, wherein said piece of foreign matter contacts said pulley whereby a warning sound having a specific frequency is generated, and wherein said warning sound becomes louder as said contact face becomes more worn.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An indication apparatus for indicating the end of life of a transmission belt, comprising:

a pulley;

a transmission belt that is wound around said pulley having;

a contact face contacting said pulley when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley; and

a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt; wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in the direction perpendicular to said contact face;

such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face whereby said foreign matter contacting said pulley makes a specific sound;

a sound sensor, which detects said specific sound, set up near where said transmission belt contacts said pulley; and

a warning apparatus which sends out a warning according to the volume or sound pressure of said specific sound detected by said sound sensor.

11. (Original) An indication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said foreign matter contacting said pulley at a predetermined cycle makes a specific sound appear at said predetermined cycle when said transmission belt rotates at a predetermined speed.

12. (Original) An indication apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said warning apparatus sends out a warning when said specific sound appears at said predetermined cycle.

13. (Previously Presented) A transmission belt comprising:

a contact face contacting with a pulley when said transmission belt is wound around said pulley, and

a piece of foreign matter embedded near said contact face and at a distance from said contact face in said transmission belt;

such that upon said contact face being worn by said pulley when said transmission belt rotates around said pulley, then said foreign matter is exposed at said contact face so as to warn of a decrease in the transmission power of said transmission belt on said pulley,

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and a cross section of variable width, and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in a direction perpendicular to said contact face, and said width of said foreign matter is narrower for portions of said foreign matter closer to said contact face.

14. (Previously Presented) A transmission belt comprising:

a belt body, which is made of a predetermined material, having a certain thickness between a first surface of said belt body and a second surface of said belt body; and

a piece of foreign matter, which is made of a different material from said predetermined material, embedded in said belt body at a distance from said first surface;

the distance from said foreign matter to the first surface of said belt body in the thickness direction being shorter than the distance from said foreign matter to the second surface of said belt body in the thickness direction,

wherein said piece of foreign matter has a longitudinal direction and a cross section of variable width, and said longitudinal direction of said foreign matter is substantially in a direction perpendicular to said first surface, and said width of said foreign matter is narrower for portions of said foreign matter closer to said first surface.

15. (New) A transmission belt according to claim 5, wherein said foreign matter is softer than said pulley, and wherein said warning sound becomes louder as said contact face becomes more worn.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said specific sound becomes louder as said contact face becomes more worn.